

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

The delay of the Sacred College in coming to a rupture with Urban had been in part due to the opposition of Pedro de Luna. '* My lord of Geneva says that I am too conscientious," he said to Alvarez Martinez, a Spaniard attached to the Curia : " I certainly wish to see, and to see clearly, where the right lies ; for I tell you that, if I were now to agree with them, and afterwards were in Avignon and found that by right this man was true Pope, I should go to him even barefoot, if I could not otherwise."¹ But at length, apparently sincerely converted by the arguments of his colleagues, he wrote to Fra Gonsalvo at Rome, asking him to come to him on important business. " I sent for you," he began, when the friar arrived, "that you might hear my confession, and that I might be comforted by your presence ; but I must first ask you if you believe that the man at Tivoli is Pope, for, in that case, I think you cannot absolve me." *^c O holy Mother of God ! " exclaimed the Dominican,^{tc} what is this ? Do not flatter yourself, my lord Cardinal, that those words are written in water that you so often spoke to me in Rome to the contrary. What can you now answer to what you yourself then told me so frankly, as to your faithful son, your lover, your fellow-countryman ?" The Cardinal, showing some embarrassment, admitted that he had come to Anagni with the intention of reconciling his colleagues with Urban, but declared himself now convinced that the latter was not Pope. To Gonsalvo's retort that the whole lot of them were being seduced by the devil, the Cardinal " answered right humbly that it was possible, for he was a mere man." He admitted that, if it had not been for Urban's behaviour, they would still have been with him, and professed his dread of schism, to avert which he asked Gonsalvo to exhort the Pope spontaneously to renounce the papacy, in order that they might proceed to a free election. Gonsalvo, "to escape from the snare into which I had fallen," accepted the commission, and the Cardinal paid his expenses back to Rome.²

¹ Baluze, I. col. 1182.

² Deposition of Fra Gonsalvo, MS. *nt.* ff.